9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

(b) *Organizations to promote Trade and Commerce*

Organizations to promote trade in the Ukraine are not numerous. The true traders of the country are the native Jews, and to trace their involved dealings is impossible. 441

The sales of the coal and iron are almost wholly controlled by rings and cartels. The most powerful one, the *Prodamet*, or metal sales combine, controlled recently over 80 per cent. of all the iron and steel produced in South Russia and threatened to absorb the entire output. 477

The activities of the *zemstvos* in trade call for mention. These organs of local government actively enter into trade in agricultural machinery, improved seed, and pedigree live-stock, and endeavour to improve the facilities for selling the products of domestic industry. Their aim is to lift the internal commerce of the country from the condition of dependence on speculating middlemen, into which it has almost irretrievably fallen, but their achievements so far only touch the fringe of a deep-seated social trouble. 441 185

There are chambers of commerce at Odessa, Kiev, Kharkov, Berdyansk, and Mariupol, and there is a branch of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce at Odessa. Odessa, Nikolaev, and Yelisavetgrad have corn exchanges, and coal and iron exchanges exist at Kharkov. 441

(c) *Foreign Interests and Methods of Economic Penetration*

The present state of commerce in the Ukraine provides a wide field for economic penetration from abroad. Agriculture in its first stages is not much affected, but in one case, that of the production of sugar from beet, the secondary stages of manufacture have been much exploited by foreign capital and management. The coal and iron mining industries and the iron and steel manufacturing industries owe their foundation in great measure to foreigners, by whom they are still largely 471 433